

Message Text

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12

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

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P 091520Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC VORITY 2929

USIA WASHDC PRIGITY

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DEPT AIR FGCE WASHDC PRIORITY

CNMWASHDC PRIORITY

USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

UNCLAS COPENHAGEN 2279

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGSC MIL, OTRAN DA

SUBJECT: DANISH HOME GUARD INFORMATION OFFICERS TOUR OF US MILITARY FACILITIES

REFC (A) USIS COPENHAGEN UNCLAS MSG 2049, DTG 211320Z JUN '76,

(B) USIA WASDC UNCLAS MSG 20515, DTG 012331Z JUL 76

(C) USDAO COPENHAGEN UNCLAS MSG 519 DTG 071020Z JUL 76

1. KNUD DAMGAARD, MEMBER OF DANISH PARLIAMENT, INTERNATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT OF THE ATALNTIC ASSEMBLY (NATO PARLIAMENTARIANS), MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE AND INFLUENTIAL MEMBER OF THE DANISH HOME GUARD, HAS REQUESTED USG TO FACILITATE AND AID A PROPOSED VISIT BY TWELVE DANISH HOME GUARD CONSULTANTS TO US THIS FALL. TOUR IS TO PROVIDE INSIGHT INTO US DEFENSE ESTABLISHMENT, PARGICULARLY AS IT CONCERNS CITIZEN-SOLDIERY(NTAIONAL GUARD), AS WELL AS TO AFFORD RANGE OF BASIC CIVILIAN BRIEFINGS.

2. EMBASSY STRONGLY FAVORS PROJECT FOR FOLLOWING REASONS:

A. THE VISIT WOUL DIRECTLY SERVE IMPLEMENTATION OF

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US COUNTRY OBJECTIVE B (A STRONG NATO POLICY FOR DENMARK).

(SEE EMBASSY'S ANNUAL POLICY ASSESSMENT CONTAINED IN COPENHAGEN 1414, DTG 291605Z APR 76, AS REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY AN INTERAGENCY GROU, INCLUDING DOD, ON JUNE 9, 1976).

B. THE PROJECT WOULD FAVORABLY INFLUENCE YOUNG DANES IN KEY POSITIONS TO PASS THEIR IMPRESSIONS ON TO OTHER YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN ENROLLED IN THE DANISH HOME GUARD. BECAUSE OF THE GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF THE HOME GUARD CONSULTANTS, ALL REGIONS OF THE COUNTRY WILL BE REPRESENTED. THE TRIP THUS HAS A MAXIMUM BUILT-IN "MULTIPLIER FACTOR."

C. HOME GUARD CONSULTANTS ARE PRIMARILY RESPONSIBLE FOR INFORMATION AND INDOCTRINATION OF HOME GUARD UNITS. DEFENSE-MINDED DANISH YOUTH HAS NO MORE DIRECT SOURCE, NOR COULD THE EMBASSY HAVE A MORE EFFICIENT CHANNEL FOR ITS YOUTH CONTACT PGORAM IN THIS SECTOR.

D. KNUD DAMGAARD, LEADING MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT, IS A KEY FIGURE IN THE LARGER PICTURE OF DANISH DEFENSE POSTURE. HE PLANS TO LEAD THIS GROUP PERSONALLY AND HIS OWN FAVORABLE OUTLOOK COULD BE FURTHER ENHANCED THROUGH ADROIT HANDLING OF THE GROUP IN THE US AND DISPLAYED HELPFULNESS ON THE PART OF US AGENCIES, PROMINENTLY INCLUDING DOD.

E. THE CONSIDERABLE POTENTIAL OF SUCH A VISIT CAN BE OBTAINED AT MINIMUM COST TO THE USG. TRANSATLANTIC TRAVEL IS ALREADY ASSURED FROM DANISH SOURCES AND INTERNAL TRAVEL WILL BE CARRIED OUT BY COMMERCIAL TRANSPORT, BOTH AIR AND GROUND. THE GROUP IS WILLING TO USE BUS TRANSPORTATION TO EFFECT ECONOMY WHENEVER POSSIBLE.

F. MAJORITY OF GROUP HAS NEVER BEEN IN THE US. STRONG USG SUPPORT WOULD HEIGHTEN FAVORABLE FIRST IMPRESSIONS.

G. THE TRIP WOULD TAKE PLACE IN CONJUNCTION WITH MEETING OF ATLANTIC ASSEMBLY, THUS ESTABLISHING NATURAL "BRIDGE" BETWEEN DANISH HOME GUARD AND NATO THEMES.
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3. DOD ASSISTANCE WOULD BE CRUCIAL FACTOR IN REALIZATION OF PROJECT AND WOULD CONSIST LARGELY OF PROVIDING BRIEFINGS AND ACCESS TO FACILITIES. THE LATTER SHOULD INCLUDE:

A. PERMISSION TO GROUP TO USE TRANSIENT OF BOQ FACILITIES ON MILITARY INSTALATIONS, THUS CONSIDERABLY

LOWERING EXPENSES NECESSARY FOR HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS.

B. ADMISSION OF GROUP TO UNCLASSIFIED BRIEFINGS AT DOD AND INSTALLATIONS TO BE SELECTED AFTER CONCURRENCE IN PRINCIPLE HAS BEEN OBTAINED. BULK OF THESE WOULD BE IN EASTERN PART OF THE US TO REDUCE TRANSPORT COSTS.

C. PERMISSION TO GROUP TO USE MILITARY MESSING FACILITIES WHILE ON MILITARY INSTALLATIONS.

4. ITINERARY OF TOUR WILL LARGELY DEPEND ON SCHEDULING FACTORS AVAILABLE ONLY AFTER EXTENT OF STATE AND USIA ASSISTANCE HAS BEEN DETERMINED. HOWEVER, DAMGAARD HAS INDICATED INTERESTS IN VISITS TO : (A) WASHDC AREA, (B) NORFOLK NAVAL INSTALLATIONS, (C) EGLIN AF BASE (FIRE POWER DEMONSTRATION), (D)) MAJOR NASA CENTER (CAPE CANAVEAL OR HOUSTON), AND (E) FORT BENNING AND/OR FORT BRAGG.

5. REQUEST DOD TRANSMIT AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE AFTER CONSULTATION WITH STATE AND USIA LIAISON. EMBASSY WILL ENDEAVOR TO OBTAIN MORE PRECISE ITINERARY SUGGESTIONS FROM DAMGAARD ASAP AND WOULD ALSO WELCOME SUGGESTIONS FROM DOD AND USIA.

6. DEFENSE ADVISOR'S OFFICE OF USNATO SUPPORTS PROJECT THROUGH ITS OWN CHANNELS.
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